

A NEW SPECIES OF NITIDULID BEETLE FROM CHILE

(Coleoptera)

L. R. GILLOGLY

*State Department of Agriculture, Sacramento, California****Eumystrops chilensis* Gillogly, new species**

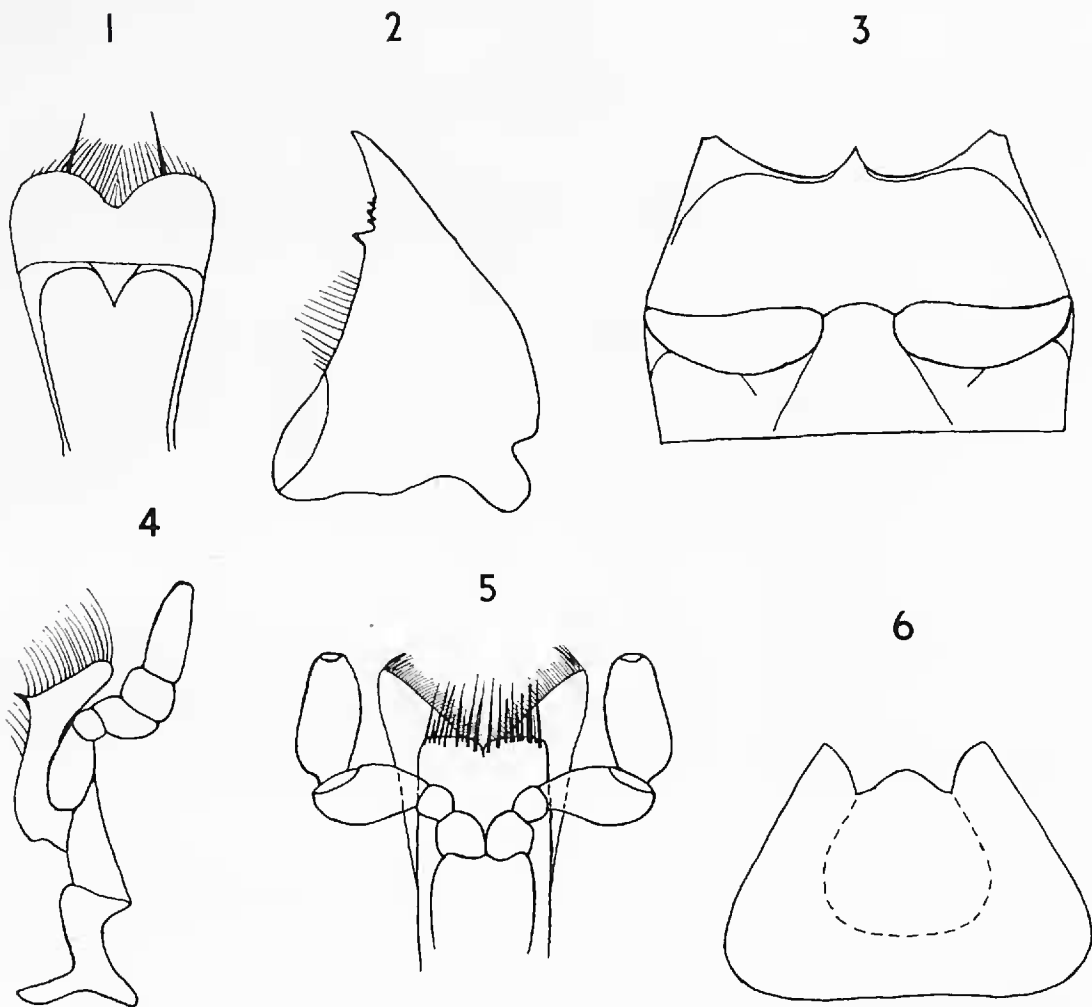
Oval, slightly oblong, convex, shining; clothed with close-lying, silvery-white, rather long pubescence; individuals vary in color from luteus to piceus, light colored specimens have metasternum dark and dark markings on the elytra just behind the middle while the dark specimens have two light longitudinal marks near the suture anterior to the middle. *Head* coarsely punctate. Eyes larger and globular. Antennae, having basal segment little dilated, second less dilated, third slender equal in length to second, 3 to 8 slender and progressively shorter until 8 which is nearly spherical, club 3-segmented, ovate and compact. Antennal grooves convergent, if extended they would meet at a point between anterior coxae. Pronotum with width to length as 1.7 to 1, sides rounded, not narrowing posteriorly, moderately expanded, reflexed, with hind angles bluntly rectangular and projecting back somewhat, hind edge narrowly margined, feebly bisinuate. Elytra entire, conjointly rounded, edges reflexed, not serially punctate. Scutellum triangular, rather small. Pygidium small, completely covered by elytra, closely punctate. None of the other dorsal segments of the abdomen chitinized. Prosternum moderately punctate, process slender and somewhat expanded at tip. Mesosternum short, carinate in middle beneath prosternal process. Mesocoxae close together. Metasternum short, equal in length to first two abdominal segments together, axillary space extending back along episternal suture about three-fourths of distance to hind coxae, median area somewhat depressed. Hind coxae separated by distance equal to width of second abdominal segment, abdominal lobe between coxae nearly truncate, on each side a divergent raised line accentuated by a slight depression along its inner side, the line extends back across entire width of first abdominal segment diverging at about 45 degrees from longitudinal axis. Surface of ventral abdominal segments and metasternum covered with reticulations except for area between divergent lines on first segment which is completely smooth. Mouthparts: Labrum bilobed; mandibles, straight and projecting forward, several small teeth preceding a larger tooth before the tip, grinding surface on inner side of base; maxillae, lacinia broadly truncate, a definite spur on inner edge, tip very densely covered with long setae, palpi first segment small, second short and clavate, third equal to second but more nearly cylindrical, fourth as long as first three together. Labium: Ligula truncate, armed with long stout setae; paraglossae large, transparent, closely fringed with fine setae; palpi with first segment small, second subclavate and swollen, third equal in length to second, cylindrical. Legs short and stout. Tarsi, first three segments broadly dilated and densely pubescent beneath. Claws simple. Length 2.8 to 3.3 mm.

The species was collected by Luis E. Peña while beating native plants in the valley of Las Palmas, COQUIMBO, CHILE, September

30, 1947. *Holotype* and *allotype* are placed in the California Academy of Sciences. *Paratypes*: Sociedad Cientifica Chilena "Claudio Gay"; U. S. National Museum; American Museum of Natural History; and in the author's collection. The new species differs from the only other member of the genus as shown in the following table:

COMPARATIVE TABLE

	<i>Eumystrops chilensis</i>	<i>Eumystrops centralis</i>
Punctuation:	rather coarse	minute, not dense
Pubescence:	close-lying, silvery-white, conspicuous, as in <i>Eपुरaea populi</i> Dodge	fine, inconspicuous
Head:	strongly punctate	very feebly punctate
Scutellum:	of moderate size	rather large
Elytra:	entire, conjointly rounded	short and broad, truncate behind
Pygidium:	small, covered by elytra, very closely punctate	very broad, exposed, very obsoletely punctate, almost smooth



Figs. 1-6. *Eumystrops chilensis* n. sp. Fig. 1 labrum, 2. mandible, 3. metasternum and first ventral abdominal segment to show "axillary space" and diverging post coxal lines, 4. maxilla, 5. labium, 6. mentum.

Sharp erected the genus *Eumystrops* in 1898 for a species from Panama and while this species agrees very closely with his definition, he did not figure the mouthparts, so when an undoubted *Eumystrops* sp. becomes available for dissection this new species may be shown to represent a distinct genus. The pronounced spur on the inner edge of the lacinia distinguishes *E. chilensis* from most other Nitidulidae. It is present, however, in two species of *Cillaeus* and the single species *Ithyphenes gnatho* Murray. In many respects the mouthparts are similar to those of *Cyllodes* and *Camptodes*. The post coxal line on the first abdominal segment is a good distinguishing character and is present in varying degrees in several related genera. In *Psilotus* and *Camptodes* it appears as a continuous line enclosing a narrow transverse space behind the coxae. In *Pallodes* the area enclosed reaches nearly half way across the width of the segment with its outer margin strongly sinuate. In *Stelidota* the line encloses a broad triangular space which varies somewhat from species to species but extends about half way across the segment. In *Prometopia* the line extends across about two-thirds of the width of the segment with the outer portion sinuate and the inner portion straight. This post coxal line is broken in *Eumystrops* with the straight inner piece extended nearly across the segment while the other portion of the line is short but easily visible (fig. 3).

BOOK NOTICE

American Social Insects. By Charles D. Michener and Mary H. Michener. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., Toronto, N. Y., London, xiv + 267, 109 Plates. 1951. Price \$6.00.

This book on the habits and life histories of the bees, wasps, hornets, ants and termites is a worthy addition to the many books which have been written on this fascinating subject. Its organization, from the first chapter on "What are social insects?" to the last on "Societies of insects and man," has been carefully considered. In addition the last 24 pages are devoted to a short appendix on insect structure and classification, a bibliography, a concise glossary and an index. The text is based on the contributions of both past and present workers as well as on the personal observations and researches of the two authors in the United States, Mexico and Central America. However, the style of writing is largely non-technical and is coupled with a modest use of anthropomorphisms. The 109 full page plates, 30 in color, are in addition to the 267 pages of textual material and represent the efforts of some of the best nature photographers in this country. These illustrations, interleaved with the text, serve both to inform and delight the reader with their artistry.

The Micheners are to be congratulated for a book that contains such a wealth of clearly presented subject matter as to make it a source of enjoyment for naturalists for many years to come.—J. W. MACSWAIN.